

# TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated June 23, 1994  
206 E. Main, Talent, OR 94540, (541) 512-8338

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1998

### REJOICE!

"Winter has gone and the time of the singing of birds is come!"

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May/Sept.-Whole Cloth Exhibit - County-wide  
In Talent visit THS Museum, Talent Library,  
VRB, Clayworks, Actor's Theater
- May 1st - May Basket Day\*
- May 2nd - *An Ox Tale* book signing & Tea
- May 19th - Mother's Day
- May 16th - Stearns Cemetery Clean-up & Picnic
- May 25th - Memorial Day Observed
- June 14th - Flag Day\*
- June 21st - Father's Day
- July - Home Grown Music Youth program at THS
- July - 50th Anniversary Talent Lion's Club  
See exhibit at THS and programs
- 4th - Independence Day
- August - Membership tour to Medford Water  
Commission watershed and plant.\*\*

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## CONGRATULATIONS! TALENT LIONS CLUB 1948 - 1998 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### A BIT OF HISTORY

Lions International is officially named The International Association of Lions Clubs. It began as a merger of business luncheon clubs in Chicago with the Lions Clubs of Indiana. Melvin Jones, a young Chicago insurance agent, who is considered the Founder of Lionism, served for more than forty years as the first General

Secretary of the national organization. It was formed on June 7, 1917. When the first Lions convention was held on October 8, 1917 in Dallas, Texas 23 clubs participated. This Association is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. At the 1920 convention, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the battle against darkness." Since then sight conservation has been a high priority of Lions service. The first white cane was invented by a Lion. The Lions also started the first school to train guide dogs for the blind and they established the first eye banks to harvest corneal tissue to give sight to the blind due to injury or disease.

### HELLO, HOLLY!

It's great to have you here at THS



Yes, Holly H. Hertel from Minneapolis, Minnesota is our new Museum Director. Though a recent immigrant to southern Oregon, she has already captured a love and enthusiasm for the Rogue Valley and its history. She brings to her position experience in museum exhibits and presentations, expertise in marketing and sales and a talent for feature writing. While in Minnesota she also worked as a wildlife research technician. Holly is dedicated to making sure that Talent takes its rightful place in the history of Oregon and that the Talent Historical Society be a solid, helpful member of our community and of Jackson County.

## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ

Due to unexpected publication problems, the book signing scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, as noted on pages 1 and 3 of this Newsletter, has been canceled. Now you can attend the **Town Hall Meeting** at the Community Center on that same Saturday.

### ALSO

*The Ashland Tidings'* "**Talent in Brief**" article was in error. Holly Hertel is the new Director of the Talent Historical Society. See page 1 of this Newsletter.

## HATS OFF TO TODAY'S YOUNG HISTORIANS

**MATTHEW BAKER** - A history buff since age seven collects and exhibits memorabilia on US presidents.

**MARK BLORE** - A history maker who in his high school senior year did more than dream about a skate board park in Talent. His efforts and work made it a reality.

### THS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

10% discount on THS sale items (except coins)  
Field trips and special rates on group attendance & transportation  
Lectures, video/slide shows, contests, raffles, etc.  
New volunteer opportunities  
The THS NEWSLETTER is free to members

### \*A BIT MORE HISTORY

#### May 1st

May Basket Day has all but disappeared from our traditional history, but efforts are afoot to revive this bit of lore. Years ago the practice was to make a small paper basket, fill it with flowers, small gifts and often a tiny doll and hang it on friends' doors on May Day. This was the gentler side of May Day in contrast to the harsh, political side which, after the Haymarket bombing of 1886, was moved to November to be memorialized as Labor Day.

#### Flag Day

June 14th marks the day that the U. S. Flag was adopted by the Continental Congress as our national flag in 1777. However a century would pass before the Stars and Stripes was officially celebrated. It took still longer for our flag to be commemorated nationally. That happened in 1949 upon the urging of many citizens and organizations. President Truman signed the legislation that made Flag Day a day of national observance.

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### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT - Bud Gleim

Much has happened since our last newsletter. First, We have a new Director. Please feel free to drop by and welcome her.

There is a change in the process by which we and other historical societies in Jackson County apply for and

receive our share of tax dollars dedicated to the preservation of local history. Community support is a critical element in the process which the County Budget Committee and Commissioners will use to decide how much of those funds we get. If there was ever a time to demonstrate support for the Talent Historical Society, it is now. Once the opportunity to preserve a piece of our community's history has passed, it cannot be recaptured. Please contact our county commissioners and/or budget committee members and let them know you support what we do.

Do you know that on April 3, 1928, - 70 years ago - the City Council made an agreement with the Community Club to split the cost of installing toilets and a septic tank in the City Hall? A THS coffee mug goes to the first member to inform our new museum director where the City Hall was located on that date.

### DO YOU KNOW

When the logo for the city of Talent first was used and who designed it?



Please call in your

answers.

Answer to **WHERE IS IT?** in our previous Newsletter. 307 Old. Pacific Hwy. No winning answers received.

### Train, Truck, Track & Tragedy in Talent May 6, 1936

Anticipation was high and the day was beautiful. Shortly before 10:00 a.m. the Al G. Barnes' circus train was due to pass through and the crowd assembled at Talent's Main Street railroad crossing was exhilarated. A Buick pick-up truck with three passengers approached the scene unnoticed.

"I was sitting in the middle and was busy rolling a cigarette or lighting one, I don't remember which. Suddenly Leroy hollered. 'Step on it, Al' I looked out the side window of the truck and saw the engine almost on us. All tried to speed up but the truck couldn't go very fast. I think he turned to the left a little. Then Leroy shouted, 'Look out!' I looked out the back window just as our front wheels were on the track. We were going probably 10 or 15 miles an hour. I saw a lot of stuff coming down on top of me and then heard a crash. I think I first heard the train whistle when it was almost on top of us."

Those are the memories A. E. Ingersoll, the only survivor. Alfred N. Dobbins died on impact and was found beneath a circus car some 500 feet from the crossing. His brother Leroy E. Dobbins died before the sun set that same day. A double funeral was held

for the two brothers on May 8th. They now rest beneath a single marker in Ashland's Mountain View Cemetery.

## WERE YOU THERE?

Sixty years ago the Talent Community Club (now the Talent Federated Women's Club) and City Hall shared rent with the City for the Community Hall which also served as City Hall. Here's a peek into the February 2, 1938 meeting of the Club.

The report of the Club representatives, meeting with the City Council, was given by chairman Mrs. Higgins, stating the Mayor offered, first (as a suggestion) 'Would the Club consider taking over the City Hall and allowing the Council to hold their meetings there free of charge?' Mrs. Higgins asked the Mayor if they considered the Club (15 members) capable of doing same.

Mr. Jay Terrill begged a word and stated his support for a community club such as was under discussion. Such a club was needed and the community derived good will and benefits from this particular one, he said

The Mayor was not familiar with the aims and services of the club so Mrs. Bates was called upon to give a summary out of the Secretary's book of the plans and problems from 1918 - 1938 with an offer of the Treasurer's book report, if they wished. The Club's treasury amounted to \$36.69. The Mayor received the report with surprise and satisfaction.

Later Mrs. Higgins assured the club that the meeting ended with a feeling of understanding and good will between Council and Club representatives and the Club voted to help the town Council in the shingle repair work needed on City Hall.

## CEMETERIES AND FUNERAL TRADITIONS IN AND AROUND TALENT

A rich history from caskets to tomb-stones.

You don't want to miss this exhibit at the THS Museum now through the month of May.

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## \*\*JOIN US IN AUGUST FOR A TOUR OF THE WATERSHED AND PLANT

This bus trip and outing is sponsored by the Medford Water Commission and begins at 9:00 a.m. from the Costco parking lot. A brief rest stop is made at Whiskey Springs Campground/Interpretive Trail with an opportunity to follow a short foot trail to the springs. Big Butte Springs is the next stop over with a tour of the new disinfecting facility. Pack something for a picnic in Butte Falls City Park - the next stop. After lunch the bus trip continues on to the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant. This fascinating tour informs about the seasonal treatment of water from the Rogue River during the summertime when water needs are critical. The bus returns all tourists to the Costco parking lot at 3:30 p.m. What a fun way to learn about our water source and its management! HOPE YOU'LL BE A FELLOW TRAVELER THIS ENJOYABLE AND EDUCATIONAL SAFARI.

## EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

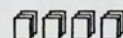
One Saturday some 25 members of the Talent Odd Fellows gathered early at the Stearns cemetery site to spruce up the recently purchased tract of land. Donned in working togs and armed with proper tools, they cleared the grounds and put up a fine lawn fence; then they installed two handsome wagon gates for entrance. At noon the Rebekahs appeared laden with a delicious picnic dinner. From "The Ashland Tidings" April 23, 1913

JOIN US FOR A SIMILAR EVENT ON  
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH



## A STORY FOR ALL AGES

THS and the Talent Library will host a tea and book signing of "An Ox Tale" on Saturday, May 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in the Talent Library. This book, written by local author, Yvonne Reynolds, has interest for the young in age and the young of heart. All are invited. This is Yvonne's first book since *TALENT - WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD*, first compiled history of Talent, published in 1996.



## OUT OF THE PAST

*Dear Great, Great Granddaughter Amy,*  
"You were wondering about the clothes we wore when I first started to school here in the city hall. All the girls wore calf length dresses and the boys wore short pants. But just as today the styles keep changing. We got away from the buttons and bows - button shoes and hair ribbons - when I was in the 6th grade but our gym clothes didn't change till about 1914. Up til then we wore bloomers and middy blouse. The bloomers were black and full with elastic around the waist and also just below the knees. The middy blouse was white with sleeves below the elbow and it hung down over about half of the bloomers. I belonged to the girls' basketball team while in the Talent school and bloomers and middy blouses was what we wore at all times - even in our track meets at school. (Excerpt of a letter of Pearl Dozier Scott to Amy Thompson for a school report in 1986. Pearl came to Talent in 1906 and was a resident of Patio Village until her death in 1997. Her daughter is Shirley Thompson currently of Talent.)

## A Taxing Observation by our Vice President - Alice Burnette

As I watched all the people in the library waiting to have help with income tax forms, I was reminded of 1935. There were only two persons in the city who had to pay income tax according to the list posted on the post office door. One was a store keeper and one a logger. Both were bachelors.

**Z O F - U E**

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**ALL JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

**APRIL 30, 2:00 p.m.**

**JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE AUDITORIUM**

**10 S. Oakdale, Medford**

**ATTEND AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR JACKSON COUNTY HISTORY**

**Z O F - U E**

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